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INCOMING TELEGRAM

FILE
Department of State

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CONFIDENTIAL

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SS Rec'd: NOVEMBER 28, 1958
Info FROM: BERLIN 12:07 PM
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 419, NOVEMBER 28, 5 PM

6/17/58
Bourke

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EYES ONLY AND STRICTLY PERSONAL FOR SECRETARY DULLES
FROM SENATOR BOURKE HICKENLOOPER:

I ARRIVED IN BERLIN YESTERDAY MORNING, HAVE DISCUSSED THE
SITUATION WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE, STUDIED PRESS REPORTS, AND
FIND THAT YOUR STATEMENTS OF NOVEMBER 26 AS INTERPRETED HERE
HAVE CAUSED ALARM AND CONSTERNATION IN SO FAR AS "AGENCY"
REFERENCE IS CONCERNED.

(1) I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MISCONSTRUED
SINCE I KNOW YOUR STRONG FEELINGS WITH RESPECT TO MAINTENANCE
OF A FIRM POSITION IN BERLIN.

MY OBSERVATIONS HERE CONVINCE ME THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE "AGENT
PRINCIPLE" INVOLVING SLIGHTEST INTERPRETED ADMISSION OF ANY
DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF SO-CALLED GDR STATUS CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED
ON ANY GROUNDS, LEGAL OR OTHERWISE, AND WOULD HAVE A
CATASTROPHIC EFFECT ON OUR POSITION AND ON OUR PRESTIGE HERE
AND ALL OF GERMANY, IN FACT IT ALREADY HAS.

AM FURTHER CONVINCED THAT WE MUST MAINTAIN THE STRONGEST
POSSIBLE POSITION IN BERLIN AND TAKE NO STEP WHICH COULD BE
INTERPRETED AS A RETREAT FROM OUR RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL
OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THIS CITY OR REDUCE OBLIGATIONS
AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF USSR.

WILL ARRIVE NEW YORK TOMORROW (SATURDAY) NIGHT.

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Classification

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